

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 NSF-04 EB-11

DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

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O R 191445Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8692

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5473

PASS: TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SA, US

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL AND SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUPS

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUPS MEETING IN RIYADH SEPT 14-17 AGREED TO THE SENDING OF 16 TEAMS OF AMERICANS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND A HALF DOZEN SAUDI GROUPS TO THE U.S. IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. THE EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES EVIDENCED A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF RAPPORT, AND IT IS OBVIOUS THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT REMAINS AT THE CENTER OF SAUDI CONCERS FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE MOST DIFFICULT AREA OF DISCUSSION WAS REGARDING NUCLEAR RESEARCH, WITH THE SAUDI SIDE PRESSING FOR A PROGRAM CULMINATING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. INSTEAD, A PROGRAM OF TRAINING SAUDI SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS IN THE U.S. WAS ADOPTED. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP MET IN RIYADH SEPT 14-15. A VERY GOOD RAPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE SAUDI & U.S. SIDES. THE SESSIONS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND EFFECTIVELY, THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE THOUGH AND WELL-ORGANIZED PREPARATION OF THE SAUDI SIDE. BOTH DR. QUENTIN WEST AND DR. TAHER OBAID WERE COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE TEAM LEADERS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDES. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF: WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING IN RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK, ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATA CENTER, LAND MANAGEMENT, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH, RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT. SIX TEAMS OF U.S. EXPERTS WILL BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS TO UNDERTAKE INITIAL SURVEYS AND/OR IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS IN THESE AREAS. IN ADDITION, THE U.S. SIDE AGREED TO ASSIST IN FURTHERING CLOSER CONTACTS AND COOPERATION WITH U.S. ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS (INCLUDING TRAINING OF SAUDIS IN THE U.S.), AND WITH THE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR IN FARM MECHANIZATION AND AGRO-BUSINESS JOINT VENTURES. A NOTABLE RECOMMENDATION IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH WAS THAT OF SAUDI PARTICIPATION IN THE EARTH RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE (ERTS) PROGRAM.

2. THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP MET ON SEPT 16-17. THE DELIBERATIONS WERE MORE WIDE-RANGING AND DIFFUSE THAN IN THE AGRICULTURAL GROUP, DUE IN PART TO THE BROADER SUBJECT MATTER AND IN PART TO THE MORE DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE SAUDI SIDE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON SAUDI-U.S. COOPERATION IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS: RESEARCH ON ARID AND SALINE LANDS; DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL WATER PLAN; INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH; A PROGRAM OF BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH; ESTABLISHMENT OF A DESALINATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER; URBAN PLANNING; POLLUTION; ENERGY RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY SOLAR AND NUCLEAR; ESTABLISHING CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN SAUDI AND U.S. ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS; DEVELOPMENT OF A SAUDI DOCUMENTATION CENTER AND TECHNICAL LIBRARY; ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTION FOR THE TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS; RESEARCH ON UTILIZATION OF LOCAL MINERAL RESOURCES; PARTICIPATION IN THE ERTS PROGRAM. THE INITIAL STAGE OF IMPLEMENTING COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS WILL CONSIST OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TEN U.S. TEAMS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, AND

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OF FOUR SAUDI TEAMS TO VISIT THE U.S., WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS OR SO. THE MOST DIFFICULT AREA OF DISCUSSION WAS THE QUESTION OF COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR RESEARCH. THE SAUDI SIDE KEPT PRESSING CIRCUMSPECTLY BUT WITH GREAT TENACITY FOR A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD CULMINATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. AFTER LONG DISCUSSION, THE ISSUE WAS NOT VERY SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT ON A PROGRAM OF TRAINING SAUDI SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS IN THE U.S. IN

NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND APPLICATION, WITHOUT COMMENT ON WHAT WOULD BE THE LOGICAL EVENTUAL CULMINATION OF SUCH A PROGRAM-- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAUDI NUCLEAR REACTOR. THE SAUDI SIDE WAS OBVIOUSLY WELL AWARE OF U.S. SENSITIVITIES ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT EQUALLY WELL AWARE OF THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A PROGRAM AND POSSESSED OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOPHISTICATION TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING A RESEARCH BASE AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT A NUCLEAR CAPACITY.

3. TEXTS OF AGREEMENTS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM NEXT POUCH.  
AKINS

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